#13994467 93 ID: 88077485 HD 170 .C46 1994 no.8

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter August 1994

CENTER SCENE

Engineering Merges

The Branch of Building Engineering (SC-673) and the Branch of Engineering Services (SC-672) merged on April 17 to become the Engineering Staff (SC-150).

The Engineering Staff provides master planning, conceptual planning, and engineering designs and specifications for bridges, buildings, roads, dams, pipelines, and recreation facilities. The Staff also provides construction inspections, maintenance plan assistance, bridge and dam safety, seismic expertise, cold-regions engineering, inspection reports, accessibility expertise, energy audits, historic preservation assistance, and interior space planning and design. In addition, the Staff maintains Bureau guide specifications and drawings, provides support to the Facilities Inventory Maintenance Management System (FIMMS), and provides Bureau leadership for the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

Requests for assistance can be made to L.J. Porter, Staff Chief, at (303) 969-5620. The Staff is located at 390 Union Boulevard, Suite 600. However, their mailing address is Building 50, Denver Federal Center, mailstop SC-150.

Mary Anne Steury and Ernie Parrott review construction drawings.

SMOKEY BEAR

Smokey Bear Turns 50

Fifty years of warning people to be careful with fire is enough to tire out anybody...but not Smokey Bear. Smokey, who was created by Albrecht Staehle, has been a symbol of fire prevention for land management agencies since he was first seen pouring a bucket of water over a campfire in 1944.

Contrary to popular belief, the Smokey Bear character existed before an actual bear cub was rescued in a forest fire in 1950. That bear, which was found clinging to a tree in the New Mexico Capitan Mountains and lived out its years at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, became the living symbol of Smokey Bear.

Through the years, Smokey has been seen on thousands of posters and public service advertisements nationwide. He has been heard on radio (through the voice of Jackson Weaver in the 1940s) and seen on television on his own half-hour animated series and on "What's My Line?" (successfully stumping the panel) in 1969. Smokey has had a mate, Goldie (Mrs. Smokey Bear), but no offspring. He even has his own zip code (20252) due to the great volume of mail he receives.

The U.S. Forest Service has coordinated the Smokey Bear program since 1952. The Bureau of Land Management, along with other Federal and State agencies involved with firefighting, is a sponsor of Smokey Bear. BLM employees from the Service Center and the Colorado State Office helped plan this year's 50th anniversary celebration for the Rocky Mountain Region.

The highlight of the celebration was Smokey's appearance at Cheyenne Frontier Days July 23-30. He attended a pancake breakfast every morning, rode each day in the opening parade, attended the rodeos, and signed hundreds of autographs. The famous Smokey Bear hot air balloon was also seen throughout the week.

The national celebration will culminate with an event in the Nation's Capital on August 9, Smokey's official birthday.

FIRE SEASON UNDERWAY

As most of you are probably aware, fire activity in the West has been very heavy for the last several weeks. Already the number of fires is more than double that of last year, and fire season is barely half over.

Several Service Center employees have been dispatched to fires to perform various duties. An upcoming issue of *Center Scene* will feature the employees who have been out on fires, what they've been doing, and hopefully will share some of their stories with you.

There is always some danger associated with fighting fires—the recent loss of 14 firefighters was a poignant reminder of this fact. Let your coworkers know that you care and that you appreciate the efforts of those who are willing to take risks to preserve our national heritage.

Environmental Compliance Assessment of Facilities
Cleaning Up Our Own Act

In September 1993, hearings by the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee found that the Department of the Interior had the worst occupational health and safety record in the Federal government, as well as a dismal environmental record. A front-page article in the September 21, 1993, issue of the Denver Post quoted the chairman of that committee, Senator John Glenn, as saying, "The department's neglect of environmental concerns has placed Americans' health and safety, not to mention their tax dollars, at risk."

A year before these hearings were held, the Service Center (SC) had already begun development of a process to improve environmental compliance and prevent hazardous material accidents, saving BLM potentially thousands of dollars in environmental restoration and Workers' Compensation costs.

The Environmental Compliance Assessment of Facilities (ECAF) program was developed by the SC to help BLM districts and resource areas comply with environmental and hazardous material safety regulations. ECAF is **not** a Hazardous Material Management or Safety Program, nor is it an inspection program. ECAF is a cooperative effort by local BLM employees and the Service Center to improve facility management. ECAF provides a cost-effective means to identify and correct problems.

The ECAF process consists of four phases: pre-assessment survey to gather facts about the facility, on-site gathering of information, evaluation and reporting of results, and implementation of corrective actions. Standardized protocols based on Federal and state regulations are used to ensure consistency. These protocols are computerized and contain the regulatory citations so that team members don't have to wing it.

Once a district is scheduled for an ECAF visit, an Assessment Team is formed by the district office. Typically, hazardous material and safety personnel from outside the district are included on the team so that the maximum number of BLM employees can receive the training that is provided during the assessment. SC and contractor personnel act as technical advisors to facilitate the assessment process. The actual role of SC employees is tailored to the individual needs of the state, district, and facility.

ECAF visits are performed in offices, warehouses, wareyards, campgrounds, visitor centers, fire stations, wild horse and burro sites, and remote work camps. These visits benefit BLM employees by identifying environmental and safety issues in their work areas. Visits also benefit recreationists and others who use BLM facilities. Drinking water sampling and hazardous material storage at campgrounds and visitor centers are examples of activities that directly protect the public's health and safety.

The ECAF report provides specific recommendations, including estimated costs for implementation. State, district, and resource area employees are provided with three opportunities to review the ECAF findings and report before they are finalized. A Corrective Action Plan that addresses how each ECAF recommendation will be implemented is then prepared by the district. The ECAF process expands the resources available to BLM managers for tracking the compliance status of their facilities.

Excess photo processing chemicals to be disposed of as hazardous waste.

ECAF visits have been completed at 6 district offices and 13 resource areas. Over 900 individual findings have been identified. Amazingly, 80 percent of these findings can be corrected without spending any money.

The ECAF program is one more example of the SC taking the initiative in solving a problem and creating cost-effective solutions that really work on the ground.

Personnel News

New Employees:

Daniel Martin, SC-214, Archeologist
Robert E. White, SC-614, Supv Budget Analyst
Asya Al-Aleem, SC-616, Voucher Examiner
Christina Pino, SC-651, Summer Aid
Marilyn Matousek, SC-657, Supv Contract Specialist
Robert N. Palmer, SC-657, Supv Property Mgmt Spec
Patricia Deitemeyer, DWO-430, Secretary (OA)
Lester Hines, DWO-432, Management Analyst
John Whiting, DWO-445, Data Analyst

Separations:

Carroll Lorenz, SC-150, Engineering Technician
Michele Klossowsky, SC-616, Voucher Examiner
Gregory Michaels, SC-616, Voucher Examiner